



The QUARAE



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Prez Says.....



Fearless Leader Doug

I hope everyone is enjoying the hot summer weather we have been having lately. it is too hot for me but I guess I will survive.

I want to tell you about a neat experience I had yesterday (July 26). I had received an email the night before from a friend of mine in Raleigh, NC, Dick Orander KD4ISC, about a scheduled 2 meter contact between NA1ISS (international space station) and KE4ZXW, Virginia Air and Space Center at NASA Langley Research Center. The event started at 10:05 am on 145.80, the ISS downlink frequency. right on the button. I heard Suni Williams NA1ISS on the station calling KE4ZXW in Virginia. She was as clear as a bell. Of course I could only hear her side of the contact answering questions from the students at the space center. The contact lasted about 9 minutes before she faded out. It was really a neat experience to hear

the station on my own equipment with no special antennas, just my Diamond dual band vertical.

I will try and let folks know about future events via the readerlist and the ragchew nets. Right now there is an event scheduled for next weekend August 5. I have a website from dick so I will check on the details and let folks know.

73,

Doug AD4UL

All the shacks in all the towns in all the world,
and the FCC walks into mine. -- Bogie

June Board Meeting

A board meeting of the Radio Association of Erie was held on 28June2012 at Tim Horton's on west 26th street in Millcreek at 1920. Attending were Craig K3PLV Ron WB3DOM Ron N3BXL George N3SRF Adam KB3THU.

Absent Doug AD4UL John WB3IFD Frank KB3NAT



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting – Thursday
August 2nd at the club
house at the end of
Wagner Rd.**

6:30 Hot dogs

7:00 PM- General Meeting

**Program: Elecraft Radio/Smoke and
Solder**

Liability insurance, there was no bill as of the meeting. George was going to inquire with the company. Motion was made by George N3SRF to pay the liability insurance. It was seconded, and approved, motion passed.

Discussion of having a quarterly board meeting.

Motion made by Adam KB3THU to accept the minutes from May. It was seconded and approved, motion passed.

Repeaters Adam KB3THU they were in good shape.

Good of the Order Field Day's attendance was okay. Contacts made were pleasant.

Meeting adjourned at 1940

July General Meeting Minutes

Hot Dogs and Chips donated by Adam KB3THU served at 6 PM

Meeting called to order at 7 PM

Secretary not present

Program was canceled because the projector was not at the club house.

First reading of by-laws to change board of directors meeting to quarterly or as needed from monthly.

No visitors.

No Qua-Rae news except for request for articles.

There was a discussion on how to get new members in club. John Lis made a brochure that is going to be put on web soon for evaluation. John Lindvay WB3IFD agreed to hold Tech Classes at Red Cross as soon as it can be arranged.

There was no board meeting at the Red Cross, because no one knew the code to get in. Instead some members met at Tim Horton's on 26th Street.

Both Vanguard and Fidelity funds have increased in value.

The RAE provided communications for the Bay Swim. Doug Sweet AD4UL, Sam KB3DAF and John N3DBC were the communicators present. A motion was made to pay \$30 to the repeater council of Western PA.

Jaffa won the 50/50.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

ELWOOD: It's 6,000 miles to Heard Isle, we've got a full gallon, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark and we're wearing sunglasses.

JAKE: Key it!

Technician Classes

An entry level amateur radio class to get the FCC Technician class amateur radio license will be held on Thursday, August 16 at the Red Cross on Pittsburgh Ave off of W. Grandview. The class will start at 6:30PM and will run for four Thursdays. For More Information Contact John Lindvay, WB3IFD, at jlindvay@msn.com Phone number is 455-1061. If you know anyone that wants a license have them register with WB3IFD

An elderly ham driver was going down the interstate when suddenly his 2 meter rig crackled his call...Answering...he heard a fellow ham's urgent warning....."Hey Doug, just heard on the news that there's a car going down I-79 the wrong way, please be careful"!! Doug replied,"Well I'll declare, it's not just one..... there's hundreds of them'!!!!!!!!!!

Hamfests?

I have attended quite a few hamfests this year.

Ripley Ham fest.

This is a very small ham fest but for me it is the springboard of the ham fest season. They have an all you can eat pancake and sausage breakfast that is very good and a very low price. The ladies that put on the breakfast donate all the profits to a children's charity. Usually there are some really good bargains at this ham fest and it is a good place to have an eyeball ragchew with friends you might not have seen all winter. You might think this event is put on by Ripley Ham Club, but you would be wrong. There is no Ripley Ham Club, just a group of hams that decided to put on a ham fest. More on that next month.



Robert Fuller N3LBI

Two Rivers Ham fest

This is also a small ham fest although it is bigger than Ripley. It is located south east of Pittsburgh and is inside a long hall. I noticed that quite a few clubs had tables and were raffling off ham items. I learned the existence of a YL club in Pittsburgh, which my daughter Emily joined. She also won a door prize, which was an ARRL \$25 gift certificate.

Breezeshooters in Butler

In my opinion by far and away the best ham fest in the area. (I have never been to Dayton) Plenty of flea market with everything imaginable for sale. There were also plenty of food vendors and even entertainment.

There were three or four buildings open with new equipment vendors, and other selling new items. Plenty of signs and directions into the location even though one route commonly used had a bridge out which made it difficult for vehicles with trailers to turn around. It was definitely a buyer's market.



Lee Williams N3APP at Butler.

I bought a couple of items only to find them cheaper down the row of tables. Last year my daughter Jaimee, took the Technician test and passed it at the VE exams. It really takes all day to see it all.

The Rochester Ham fest.

I recently attended the Rochester Ham fest. My daughter lives in Rochester and my wife wanted to visit our second grandchild so I suggested that we drive up the weekend of June 30. Smart thinking on my part. My daughter and her husband Bill are both hams and Bill had a table at the ham fest demonstrating his homemade 3D printer printing dipole center connectors. He belongs to a club called Hackerspace that is heavily into computers and taking electronic items and finding new uses for them. Other club members demonstrated a homemade pen plotter, and PSK31 contacts on a radio controlled over the internet. His table was a big hit. Everyone wanted to buy his printer, but he kept explaining that nothing was for sale; they were just trying to build more interest and members in the club. The day of the ham fest was the hottest

day of the year in Rochester. I didn't mind it so much because I thought the ham fest was going to be indoors in the new athletic center at RIT.

However there were two parts of the ham fest, the indoor part and the outdoor part. They had quite a large outdoor flea market but not as big as breezeshooters. I walked slowly through the outdoor part. I needed to buy some PL259 and barrel connectors. I was hoping to buy the green military pipes that come about 4 feet long.

No luck finding any of the items outdoors. Antique radios were plentiful and it probably was because the AWA, Antique Wireless Association is in Rochester. I thought everything was a bit overpriced. I ran into Frank Etzler N8WXQ the only other ham from Erie that I saw. I talked to quite a few people selling items. They came from far away as Detroit and Baltimore.

There was no place to sit and get out of the sun. There was only one vendor selling food and the menu was very limited. It was sad to see people sitting on the rocks and lawns or steps of the buildings trying to eat their food.

They also did a poor job on giving directions. There were no signs showing how to get there and when you did enter the campus, there were no signs or people directing you where to go. Bill and I drove around all over the place trying to figure out where to unload his equipment before we found out the main entrance. They checked your ticket stub twice, when you entered the flea market area and also when you went in the athletic center. There were quite a few vendors inside, but no major amateur stores selling radios. I was able to get my PL259 and barrel connectors from inside, but alas no pipe. You could also get space inside to sell your used equipment. I did not understand why the tables were spaced so far apart. You really had to go out of your way to see the items on those tables, since they were so far apart from everything else. I personally feel that more tables could have been set up inside. The main prizes were just 2m/440 handhelds which I thought were too modest for a

ham fest this size. I think the main objective was to make a killing profit wise, which probably succeeded, but will hurt in the long run.

North Hills Ham fest

Joe and I went to the North Hills ham fest. It was a nice little ham fest (I think better than Rochester) half indoors and half outdoors. Indoors was air conditioned and there were places just to sit down and ragchew.

We met Charles Gessner W3ON who was manning a table for the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council. Chuck was quite long winded, and finally Joe and I broke off the conversation. I asked him about the recent change in the board of directors. Joe McElhaney KR3P was removed as W.P.R.C. Frequency Coordinator, and Frank Bobro N3FB of Scenery Hill, Pa was appointed. The board of directors thanked Joe McElhaney KR3P for all of his dedication, hard work and service to the W.P.R.C. Joe did a fine job, but was not a team player.

Chuck said that you did not have to belong to the WPRC in order to coordinate your repeater. He said if you joined, the repeater trustee has voting rights in matters concerning repeaters. You did not have to be a trustee to join, but you only could vote on matters other than repeaters.

There were about 15 outdoor flea market sellers. The best part was indoors (air conditioning) where one major vendor was in attendance. The food was good and the prices were low.

Wattsburg and Union City Ham fest

Joe and I attended to ham fest setup Friday night. We cleaned the class room where the VE exams were going to take place. The RAE bought a table so members could sell their unwanted items and give 10 percent of the sales to the club. I spent hours in my basement going through the stuff that has been sitting around for years and years. I managed to sell \$228.43 cents and achieve my objective of not bringing anything back home. Well

just a little bit was left. Again the food was terrific. For breakfast the food was biscuits and gravy. Around lunch time the food was a wonderful sausage sandwich. I bought a military 30 MHz-70 MHz antenna that I will put on 6 meters. I'm sure it will impress people come next field day. (It impressed me) It was nice to see WPRC have table also. There was another club that also had a table. I was so busy selling stuff, I did not get to attend the (R)ACES meeting. Dave WX3E gave a little talk explaining ARES in Erie County. Cynthia Garfold KB3LZN, State (R)ACES Auxiliary Communications Officer also spoke. A new law that was just passed that would shut down phone, internet, and other type communications. It was Dave's understanding that Amateur Radio and trained operators would handle quite a bit more traffic. Another disappointment was I didn't find any green military pipe there. There were no new equipment vendors there and the ham fest seems to be getting smaller and smaller each year. Kudos the Jack and Frank on the PA system for their lively and timely comments..

Well I am about hamfested out. But there is Batavia next weekend. I wonder.

**An OM will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.
An XYL will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need.**

Radio Calendar Aug 4 0000Z
thru Aug 5 2359Z Int'l Lighthouse-Lightship
Contest Cillw.org

Aug 4, 0001Z - Aug 5, 2359Z 10-10 Summer Phone
QSO Party. www.ten-ten.org

Aug 4, 1800Z - Aug 5, 0600Z North American
QSO Party ncjweb.com

Aug 11, 0000Z - Aug 12, 2359Z Maryland-DC
QSO Party mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org

Aug 16-Technician classes held at Red Cross
starting at 6:30 PM Call John Lindvay for details.
455-1061



KA3CPV and WH6KQ installing 2 M antenna

Aug 17-Aug 19, 1400Z-2000Z Bayfront Marine
Center Small Boat Festival. W3GV, Erie, PA.
Radio Association of Erie. 28.410 21.280
14.280 7.280. Certificate. Rich Eisenberg, 40
Holland St, East Canal Basin, Erie, PA 16501.
Kick off for Battle of Lake Erie, War of
1812 w3gv.org

Aug 18, 1800Z - Aug 19, 0600Z North American
QSO Party ncjweb.com

Aug 19, 1800Z - Aug 19, 2359Z ARRL Rookie
Roundup www.arrl.org/contests

Aug 25, 0400Z - Aug 27, 0400Z Hawaii QSO Party
www.hawaiiqsoparty.org

Aug 25, 1400Z Kansas QSO Party
www.ksqsoparty.org

Aug 25, 1600Z - Aug 26, 0400Z Ohio QSO Party
www.ohqp.org